

FBI

Date: 3/20/68

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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

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ON 7-22-02 #427112/427113

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1092) (P)

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY 59-4 Jmf/alw

REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 3/20/88

PER Release

ON SWS

Re Memphis airtel and LHM dated 3/19/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies
and for Atlanta 2 copies of a letterhead memorandum dated
and captioned as above.

Copies are being disseminated to the U. S. Attorney
and U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, and to Regional Offices
of Military Intelligence.

Sources used in enclosed LHM are as follows:

- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)
- 2 - Atlanta (Encs. 2) (Info) (RM)
 - (1 - 100-5718)
 - (1 - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)
- ② - Memphis
 - (1 - 157-1092)
 - ① - 100-4105, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)
 - (1 - 157-558, Possible Racial Violence, Major Urban (Encs))
 - (1 - 170-70 Sub, [SEE 338-R (Ghetto)] (u))
 - (1 - 100-4528, CHARLES L. CARBAGE)
 - (1 - 157-957, JOHN BURRELL SMITH)
 - (1 - 157-1000, JAMES ELMORE PHILLIPS)
 - (1 - 157-1018, CLINTON ROY JAMERSON)
 - (1 - 68-1687 Sub A, Dissemination File)

WHE:gmh
(14)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF
DATE 12/9/81

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

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Per _____

CONFIDENTIAL

100-4105-61

ME 157-1092

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Source one is [ME 338-R(Ghetto)] (S)(u)

Source two [FOIA(b)7 - (D)] (S)(u) (Characterization of JAMES BEVEL)

LEAD:

MEMPHIS DIVISION

Will continue to follow and advise Bureau of
pertinent developments.

-2-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 20, 1968

Re: **SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RACIAL MATTERS**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/9/81 BY SP-6
PER Release ON SWS Jmptm

On March 20, 1968, Lieutenant E. H. Arkin, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, advised that two small marches in support of the sanitation workers strike which has existed in Memphis since February 12, 1968, took place in Memphis with the marchers marching from Clayborn Temple located at 280 Hernando to the vicinity of the Memphis City Hall. The marchers marched single file on the sidewalks. He stated that the first march began around 3 p.m. and consisted of some 75 to 100 people, primarily Negro adults, and that the second march occurred around 5 p.m., consisting of some 70 youngsters, mostly of a school age. The youngsters held a small prayer meeting on the plaza in front of the City Hall. There were no arrests and no incidents.

Lieutenant Arkin continued that two of the biggest troublemakers thus far in connection with the strike support activities, namely, Willie James Jenkins, age 18, male Negro, of 86 West McLemore, and John Henry Ferguson, age 20, male Negro, of 1279 Pennsylvania Avenue, appeared in Memphis City Court about a week ago and were fined \$10 each on Disorderly Conduct charges and were bound to the State of Tennessee on State Disorderly Conduct charges and that on March 19, 1968, the Shelby County Grand Jury indicted Ferguson and Jenkins under a 110-year-old State law, apparently used only once before in history, charging Jenkins and Ferguson with "Unlawfully Disturbing and Disquieting a School Assemblage" at Carver High School on March 11, 1968, when they attempted to induce all of the students in the cafeteria to walk out in support of the strike. They refused to leave the cafeteria when asked to do so by school officials and the police were called. When the police attempted to remove them, they laid on the floor and refused to move.

11 - Bureau; 2 - Atlanta; 1 - USA, Memphis; 1 - Secret Service, Memphis;
1 - G-2; 1 - 111th MI, Memphis; 1 - 111th MI, Nashville; 1 - NISO, Mfs.;
1 - NISO, Charleston; 1 - OSI, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
8 - Bureau (157-1092) (100-4105) (157-556) (170-70 Sub) (100-4528)
(157-957) (157-1000) (157-1018) ()

WHL:gmh
(29)

FILED

100-4105-60

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RACIAL MATTERS**

Lieutenant Arkin stated that L. A. Rhodes, Assistant Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, stated the act under which the men were indicted was passed in 1858.

Lieutenant Arkin stated that during the night of March 19, 1968, a series of small incidents, in all probability related to the strike, occurred and that there were scattered instances of trash fires and false fire alarms. He stated that John Hart, male Negro, age 58, of 2911 Yale, a sanitation worker, told the police that two bricks were thrown at his house at about 9:30 p.m., March 19, 1968. One of the bricks hit his roof and the other smashed the windshield of his automobile. Lieutenant Arkin added that a number of bottles were broken on the street at Jackson and Hastings, forcing police to call out a sanitation crew to clean up the debris under a protective escort.

Lieutenant Arkin also advised that one Richard Givens of 629 Hastings reported to the police that three windows were broken in his home on Monday night, March 18, 1968, after he set his garbage at the curb for pickup subsequently during the day. Lieutenant Arkin also pointed out it was learned that a hole had been shot through the window of a Loeb's Laundry, 1143 Walker Avenue, and that rocks broke a window at Loeb's Barbecue, 562 South Parkway East. He stated that one of the prime targets of the Negro supporters of the strike has been Loeb's business establishments owned by William Loeb, brother of Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb.

Lieutenant Arkin further reported that the Memphis City Council met Tuesday afternoon, March 19, 1968, and that approximately 250 Negro strike supporters attended this council meeting, hoping that Negro Councilman J. O. Patterson, Jr., would bring up a resolution urging the City Council to vote favorably recommending that Mayor Henry Loeb grant the dues check-off for the sanitation workers which appears to be the main obstacle preventing the solution of the strike.

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Lieutenant Arkin stated that he had learned that a lot of conversation took place during City Council recesses and that finally about 8 p.m., March 19, 1968, the City Council recessed until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 1968, at which time the Patterson resolution will be discussed.

The "Commercial Appeal" newspaper, issue of March 20, 1968, reported that Mr. Patterson told the paper that the Council is still divided on the issue of dues check-off which with pay increases and a written contract are the major remaining issues in the strike. The paper reported that he, Patterson, had talked with Jerry Wurf, President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and that Wurf told Patterson that if the resolution offered by Patterson was passed that it would settle the strike.

Lieutenant Arkin pointed out that this meeting will be on the eve of the scheduled mass downtown Memphis march urged originally by Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), on Monday night, March 18, 1968, when he spoke before a mass rally supporting the strike at Mason Temple in Memphis.

On March 20, 1968, both Lieutenant Arkin and source one, respectively and independently, advised that a strike rally meeting was held in Warren Temple, located at the intersection of Mississippi Boulevard and Williams Street, on the night of March 19, 1968, the featured speaker being James Bevel, who is an executive staff member of the SCLC, specializing in "nonviolent action." Bevel, who is a large man and now wears a full beard and is a male Negro, urged all present to give their undivided support to King's call for a mass march on Friday, March 22, 1968, to begin at 9 a.m. at Clayborn Temple and urged that all Negroes in Memphis refuse to go to work on Friday, March 22, 1968, and that all students refuse to go to school on that day and that all come to downtown Memphis to participate in the march. Bevel also reported that if the strike

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is not settled by March 22, 1968, that all school children should remain at home during the week beginning March 25, 1968.

It was further reported at the meeting, according to Lieutenant Arkin and source one, that on March 20, 1968, the strikers will hold a noon meeting at the Firestone Union Hall and that at 2 p.m. the adults will march, and at 4:30 p.m. the students will march, all in downtown Memphis.

It was further reported that leaflets will be passed out at all high schools in Memphis, March 20, 1968, by supporters of the strike urging that children remain home from school on March 22, 1968.

Source one reported that Bevel stated that he is separated from his wife, Diane Nash Bevel, and Bevel indicated that he had recently spent considerable time in Washington, D. C., in connection with the proposed "Poor Peoples' March," whereby impoverished Negroes from all sections of the country, particularly the South, will begin a "camp-in" in Washington, D. C., beginning April 22, 1968. Bevel stated that Martin Luther King, Jr., and some of his staff are spending March 19, 20, and 21, in the State of Mississippi organizing volunteers to participate in this "camp-in" and also soliciting financial support therefor. King and his group are expected to return to Memphis late on the night of March 21, 1968, in preparation for the mass March 22, 1968, downtown Memphis march. Source one stated that King had 12 members of his staff with him in Memphis on the night of March 18, including one unidentified female.

Also on March 20, 1968, source one added that two self-admitted members of the young militant Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) black power movement of Memphis, using the name of Black Organizing Power (BOP), namely Clinton Roy Jamerson of 1397 Davis, a student at LeMoyne College, and James Elmore Phillips, of 1592 Short, a student at LeMoyne College, commented that James Bevel would speak at an assembly at LeMoyne College at 11:30 a.m., March 20, 1968.

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On March 20, 1968, Lieutenant Arkin added that Charles Laverne Cabbage and John Burrell Smith, the admitted leaders of the BOP group in Memphis, were present at the meeting at Warren Temple and were heard by a reliable source of the Police Department to say that they would have their "own little thing going" on Friday, March 22, 1968. They did not elaborate as to what they planned.

CHARLES LAVERNE CABBAGE
JOHN BURRELL SMITH
CLINTON ROY JAMERSON
JAMES ELMORE PHILLIPS

On February 16, 1968, in connection with another FBI investigation, James Elmore Phillips, Clinton Roy Jamerson, Charles Laverne Cabbage and John Burrell Smith advised representatives of the FBI that they are members of the governing body of the Black Organizing Power (BOP) which Cabbage described as a militant young Negro black power movement in Memphis which has connections with the SNCC.

JAMES BEVEL

Bevel, in early March 1966, was observed to be present at the offices of the West Side W. E. B. DuBois Clubs in Chicago (DCA). Discussion took place at this time centering around reaction to a recent notification that the Attorney General of the United States intended to label the DuBois Clubs as a Communist front. Bevel in conversation stated that he would have ignored this notification and kept about the work in which he was engaged. He felt that if the DuBois Clubs have a real program of help for the people, then the people would answer for the Clubs despite any labels applied to them.

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Most present agreed that the attack on the DuBois Clubs was a part of the plan by the "establishment" to undermine the civil rights movement. They felt that the recent hearings into Klan activities in this country were only a beginning which would lead to a full-scale attack on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the real target. One of those present stated during the course of this discussion that he was not a Communist, and to this Bevel was overheard to reply that every thinking American should be. He stated that Negroes have not begun to read yet, but when they do, they will all be socialists.

(Source Two)

(A characterization of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of American is set forth in the Appendix Section.)

The information furnished by source one was orally furnished to Lieutenant E. H. Arkin of the Memphis Police Department on March 20, 1968, and the information from Lieutenant Arkin and source one was furnished to Mr. William Bray of the 111th Military Intelligence Corps, Third Army, Memphis, Tennessee, on March 20, 1968.

W. E. B. DU BOIS CLUBS OF AMERICA (DCA)

A source advised that on October 26-27, 1963, a conference of members of the Communist Party, USA (CPUSA), including national functionaries, met in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of setting in motion forces for the establishment of a new national Marxist-oriented youth organization which would hunt for the most peaceful transition to socialism. The delegates were told that it would be reasonable to assume that the young socialists attracted into this new organization would eventually pass into the CP itself.

A second source has advised that the founding convention for the new youth organization was held from June 19-21, 1964, at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, at which time the name W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) was adopted. Approximately 500 delegates from throughout the United States attended this convention.

The second source advised in September, 1966, that Mike Zagarell, CPUSA Youth Director, stated that in Negro communities the Party still supported the plan to build "left" socialist centers and to solidify the Party base through the DCA. This source also advised in September, 1966, that Daniel Rubin, CPUSA National Organizational Secretary, stated the Party believes the DCA should have a working-class outlook and be a mass organization favorable to socialism, socialist countries and Marxism, and in April, 1967, advised that Gus Hall, CPUSA General Secretary, indicated the DCA primary emphasis should be on developing mass resistance to the draft.

A third source advised in September, 1967, that Jarvis Tyner was elected chairman of the DCA on September 10, 1967, at the Third National Convention of the DCA held in New York, New York, from September 8-10, 1967.

A fourth source advised during August, 1967, that Jarvis Tyner is a member of the National Committee of the CPUSA.

A fifth source advised on September 21, 1967, that the headquarters of the DCA is located at 34 West 17th Street, New York, New York.

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Memphis, Tennessee
March 20, 1968

Title: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

Reference: Memorandum dated and captioned
as above prepared at Memphis,
Tennessee.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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